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Colleagues Of Dr. King Rap Report

NEW YORK (AP) — Three colleagues of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. denounced as "totally false" Monday a Time magazine report that FBI director J. Edgar Hoover confronted King with wiretaps revealing King's alleged extramarital activities.

A fourth associate said Hoover should be suspended for "misuse, abuse and malfeasance in discharging his responsibilities" for the wiretap on King's phone.

The widow of the slain civil rights leader also issued a statement saying the Time story "does not correspond" with what her husband told her.

Discussing a new book about King, "The King God Didn't Save," by author John Williams, Time says that Hoover, meeting with King in 1964, "lectured" King on his morals and suggested he tone down his criticism of the FBI.

In a joint statement issued in Atlanta, Ga., Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, King's successor as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Rev. Andrew Young and Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy, declared Monday:

"As participants and witnesses to the discussion between Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and J. Edgar Hoover, we are shocked by Time magazine's totally false report.

"All three of us were present during the entire discussion and at no point did Mr. Hoover lecture Dr. King or even comment on his personal life."

The statement said it was "blatantly untrue that Dr. King slowed down his activities because he felt threatened."

Coretta S. King's statement, also issued in Atlanta, said: "The conversation between my husband and Mr. Hoover, which he related to me, does not correspond at all with the Time magazine report."

In Chicago, Rev. Jesse Jackson, national director of the SCLC's Operation Breadbasket program, charged the FBI with making the tapes as "an intentional defamation of character."

Jackson said Hoover, in letting the co[illegible] the tapes become know[illegible] dercut the [illegible] the pres[illegible] ers."

"Mr. [illegible] the lowe[illegible] and mali[illegible] handed [illegible] mation [illegible] man," [illegible] ing at [illegible]

He [illegible] on su[illegible] exami[illegible] by the [illegible] Justic[illegible] rists [illegible] and [illegible]

See also Martin Luther King, Jr. file.